

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

December 16, 2008

SB 1953, the Hospitals Facilities Seismic Safety Act, requires all California hospitals to meet specific earthquake safety standards by January 1, 2013.

Unfortunately, many hospitals are having difficulty meeting these standards due to lack of funding. When passed by the legislature, this bill contained no funding or financial assistance.

The current cost estimate to comply with SB 1953 is \$24 billion statewide. Many hospitals face significant additional costs to borrow funding for land acquisition and other associated costs. Many hospitals in Los Angeles County are facing severe financial pressures and will have difficulty meeting these new standards.

My concern is that many hospitals will not be able to raise the funds necessary to comply with SB 1953 which would further cripple our fragile healthcare system since non-compliant hospitals would either have to reduce services or close their doors.

I want to be clear in my support for improved earthquake standards, however, it appears to me that some of these deadlines cannot realistically be achieved.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to report back within 30 days on the overall status of compliance within Los Angeles County of SB 1953 standards;
2. Instruct the CEO and the Director of Health Services to come back with legislative recommendations to ensure existing access to patient care continues.

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MOTION

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